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To: [Eric Delgado/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [Warr \(Kettler\), Kristie](#)
Subject: Sampling Description
Date: 06/29/2011 01:52 PM

Eric,

Let me know if this is what you need,

During a normal sampling event, samples are collected, packed, and shipped almost immediately (based on the FedEx schedule). With the Los Alamos air sampling and the potential for radioactive material, there are additional steps. First we collect the sample which for Air Sampling has to run air over a filter for a prescribed amount of time (usually 8, 12, or 24 hours) before the sample is collected. Then the sample needs to be field screened for radioactivity before it can be shipped.

Air filters typically have elevated amounts of short-lived radioactivity including the presence of radon-220 and radon-222. One of the daughter products, Pb-212 (also known as thorium B), has a 10.6 hour half-life. Samples may need to sit for a period of time before they can be field screened for gross alpha and beta counts. These counts are required to determine whether there is appreciable radioactivity on the filter prior to shipping.

If the field screening comes back elevated beyond a predetermined level, then the sample has to sit for 12 hours, 24 hours, 2 days, or more depending on the levels of radioactivity before the samples can be shipped to allow time for decay.

Once the samples arrive at the lab, the labs are saying it will take one to two weeks before complete results are available. It may be possible to obtain "partial" results or available results during this time period but full results will take that long.

Thanks,



Brad Morgan

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